

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Application No.: 10/500,158****Docket No.: 4739-001****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals, and

(iii) applying a selected encoding process to a received audio visual signal, said encoding process being selected depending on the contents of said at least one protocol signal read.

38. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 37 further characterised by additional subsequent step of:

(iv) producing encoded output for a software player application,

39. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38 wherein the encoded output provided is adapted to be played to users not directly participating in the videoconference.

40. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38 which is adapted to provide an encoded output file or files.

41. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38

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which is adapted to provide an encoded output transmission.

42. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38 wherein the encoded output provided is adapted to be played using a computer system.

43. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38 wherein the encoded output is distributed to users over a computer network.

44. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38 wherein apparatus used to provide the encoded output forms a videoconference endpoint.

45. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 37 wherein a read protocol signal provides information regarding any combination of following parameters associated with an audio visual signal of a videoconference transmission;

- (i) audio codec employed and/or
- (ii) video codec employed and/or
- (iii) the bit rate of audio information supplied and/or
- (iv) the bit rate of video information supplied and/or
- (v) the video information frame rate and/or
- (vi) the video information resolution.

46. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 37 wherein the content of a read protocol signal is used to detect the time position of at least one keyframe present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission.

47. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 46 wherein keyframes are encoded into the encoded output at the same time position as keyframes are detected in an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission.

48. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 37 wherein the contents of said at least one read protocol signal indicates a content switch present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission.

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49. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from a freeze picture signal extracted from a protocol signal.

50. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from the removal of a freeze picture request signal extracted from a protocol signal.

51. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from a document camera signal extraction from a protocol signal.

52. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from the removal of a document camera signal extraction from a protocol signal.

53. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from an image incorporation signal extracted from a protocol signal.

54. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from the removal of an image incorporation signal extracted from a protocol signal.

55. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein a content switch is detected from a camera movement signal extracted from a protocol signal.

56. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 48, wherein the detection of a content switch triggers the association of at least one index marker with the encoded output at the corresponding time position in the encoded output at which the

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content switch was detected.

57. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 56, wherein an index marker includes reference information indicating what content switch was detected.

58. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 56, wherein a protocol signal indicates the time position of at least one keyframe present within an audio visual signal of the videoconference transmission, and wherein keyframes encoded into the encoded output are positioned adjacent to or in the same position as index markers encoded into said output.

59. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 58, wherein keyframes encoded into the encoded output provided are positioned within a threshold time from an index marker.

60. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 58, wherein keyframes are encoded at the same time position as index markers.

61. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 38, wherein encoded output audio visual content is time compressed when a low content state is detected from a received protocol signal.

62. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 61, wherein a buffer is used to time compress the audio visual content of the encoded output.

63. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals, and

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(iii) determining the time position of a keyframe present within an audio visual signal received, and

(iv) encoding a keyframe into the encoded output at the same time position at which the keyframe was detected in the original received audio visual signal.

64. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals, characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals, and

(iii) detecting a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio visual signal or signals, and

(iv) encoding an index marker at the time position at which the content switch was detected.

65. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 64 wherein index markers are encoded within a time threshold from the time position of a keyframe.

66. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission, from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals, and

(iii) detecting a content switch within the audio visual content of a received audio visual signal, and

(iv) encoding a keyframe and

(v) encoding an index marker at the same time position or adjacent to the time position of the keyframe encoded.

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67. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals, and

(iii) detecting the existence of a low content state present within a received audio visual signal or signals, and

(iv) time-compressing the encoded output content during the time period in which said low content state is detected within the videoconference transmission received.

68. (previously presented) A method of encoding as claimed in claim 67 wherein a buffer is used to receive videoconference transmission signals whereby the rate at which the contents of the buffer is played out to an encoding process determines the degree of time compression applied to the original videoconference content when encoded.

69. (previously presented) A method of encoding audio visual media signals characterised by the steps of:

(i) receiving a videoconference transmission from a computer network, said videoconference transmission including at least one audio visual signal and at least one protocol signal, and

(ii) reading one or more protocol signals to determine the encoding characteristics of the received videoconference transmission,

receiving encoding preferences from at least one user, and

70. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 37.

71. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 63.

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72. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 64.

73. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 66.

74. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 67.

75. (new) An apparatus for encoding audio visual media signals, said apparatus comprising:

a processor arranged for performing the method of claim 69.

76. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 37.

77. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 63.

78. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 64.

79. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 66.

80. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 67.

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81. (new) A storage medium containing therein a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method of claim 69.

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